7th March 1955]

*Government Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli.*

* 1154 Q.—Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the daily average number of (i) out-patients and (ii) in-patients treated in the Government Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli, in the month of November 1954;

(b) the number of Assistant Surgeons (i) men and (ii) women in the said hospital;

(c) the number of Nurses (i) male and (ii) female, working in the said hospital; and

(d) the number of hours of duty per day for these Assistant Surgeons and Nurses?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) 1,081 out-patients and 596 in-patients.

" (b) Eight men and three women Assistant Surgeons.

" (c) Sixteen men and 22 women nurses.

" (d) All the Assistant Surgeons other than the Assistant District Medical Officer and the Resident Medical Officer attend the hospital at 7 a.m. and leave the place between 2 and 3 p.m. Certain Assistant Surgeons are posted for duty from 3 to 8 p.m. and from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. The Assistant District Medical Officer will be in the hospital from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and he will also be available for all emergencies. The Assistant Surgeon doing the duties of the Resident Medical Officer will be available for day duty between 3 to 8 p.m. and for night duty between 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.; besides he attends to emergencies.

" The hours of duty of a batch of nurses are from 7 a.m. to 8-30 a.m., 9-15 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1-30 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. and for another batch from 7 a.m. to 9-15 a.m., 10 a.m. to 1-30 p.m. and 4-30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Nurses on night duty will work from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. with an hour of interval."

Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" Is there a growing complaint among the staff that they are over-worked and are Government aware that the number of the several classses of staff is not up to the sanctioned strength? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. It is so in many places."

Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—" It is stated that nurses on night duty will work from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m., that is, at a stretch they will work for 13 hours. Will the Government consider the most essential period only and reduce the working hours of these nurses to 6 hours? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, this has been the practice for a long time. I do not think the nurses keep themselves awake all the time."

[7th March 1955

Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" May I know whether it is a fact that the District Medical Officer made proposals for increasing the bed strength even within the buildings available at present and if so, what is the action taken by the Government?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Proposals for increasing bed strength, for providing additional staff, etc., have been made in regard to many hospitals. Only a few of them have been accepted, considering their urgent need and the availability of funds."

Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" Is it a fact that till a few months back, the quarters assigned to the Resident Medical Officer was occupied by nurses, and is it a fact that nurses are not provided with quarters within the hospital compound and if so, will Government remedy this defect?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, that is a separate question."

*N.E.S. Scheme for South Kanara*

* 1155 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the blocks and specific areas proposed to be taken under National Extension Service in South Kanara out of the 30 blocks proposed to be taken in 1955?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The question has not yet been considered by the Government."

*Reservation of seats for students of Scheduled Castes in Colleges*

* 1156 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the policy of the Government in utilizing vacancies in the seats reserved for Scheduled Castes, if any, at the time of admission to the various professional colleges in the State?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The hon. Member is referred to answer given to clause (*a*) of question No. 153 answered on 9th December 1954."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know the difficulties of the Government in utilizing these vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes in respect of the Madras City according to the population?"

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It has been decided by the Government to add it on to the general pool and that is the decision."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" This question came before the House a number of times. I pass on to the next question."